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Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 26 September 2002 at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Wenaweser ..... (Liechtenstein)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that, in view of the volume of work before the Committee, the status of documentation and the need to strictly carry out the programme of work, making the best possible use of the resources available, he would urge members of the Committee to observe three key principles for the success of their work: discipline, dialogue and transparency.

Election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur

2. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to elect its three Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur. The Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had nominated Ms. Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed (Sudan), Mr. Toru Morikawa (Japan) and Ms. Loreto Leyton (Chile), respectively, for the posts of Vice-Chairmen.

3. *Ms. Mohamed Ahmed (Sudan), Mr. Morikawa (Japan) and Ms. Leyton (Chile) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

4. **The Chairman** said that the Group of Eastern European States had nominated Ms. Oksana Boiko (Ukraine) for the post of Rapporteur.

5. *Ms. Boiko (Ukraine) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/57/250; A/C.3/57/1, A/C.3/57/L.1 and Add.1)

6. **The Chairman** drew the Committee's attention to chapter II of the first report of the General Committee (A/57/250) on guidelines for the conduct of meetings, especially section K, which reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters. As far as the allocation of items was concerned (A/C.3/57/1), since the General Assembly had decided to allocate item 43, "Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children", to the Second and Third Committees, the item had been included in the Committee's programme of work .

7. **The Chairman** noted that, according to General Assembly resolution 46/140, annex I, paragraph 13, the programme of work and the status of documentation would be considered at an informal meeting. Turning to the status of documentation, he drew the Committee's attention to General Assembly resolution 50/206 C and subsequent resolutions on the control and limitation of documentation.

The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.30 p.m.

8. **The Chairman** recommended that, unless anything unforeseen happened, the calendar agreed upon by the Committee should be followed to the extent possible. The main sponsors of resolutions should draft them as soon as possible so that negotiations would not go beyond the deadlines. Moreover, delegations wishing to present proposals for action should submit them to the Acting Secretary of the Committee to enable him to prepare a list of such initiatives so that all the delegations that wished to do so could participate in the negotiations from the outset. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the programme of work contained in document A/C.3/57/L.1, as orally revised.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to limit statements of delegations to seven minutes and statements by representatives of groups of delegations to 15 minutes, on the understanding that Secretariat officials would also be limited to seven-minute statements.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, the number of statements by each delegation in exercise of the right of reply at each meeting would be limited to two for each item. The first statement might be five minutes, and the second one should be no longer than three minutes. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings had been scheduled for the same day and both meetings were devoted to consideration of the same item. Similarly, statements on points of order should be no longer than five minutes.

13. **The Chairman** said he took it that, in accordance with established practice, the Committee wished to

invite special rapporteurs and representatives to report on their work to the Committee at the current session.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **Mr. Xie** Bohua (China), noting that item 43, "follow-up to the outcome of special session on children", had been allocated by the General Assembly to both the Third and Second Committees, wondered whether the draft resolutions on that item would be prepared separately or jointly by both Committees and whether, should the Third Committee prepare a separate text, the Chairman would present a Chairman's text. He also wanted to know whether item 43 would be considered together with item 105 on the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

16. **The Chairman** said given the fact that items 43 and 105 were closely related, the general resolution on item 105 could devote a section to the special session on children. There were no plans to present a Chairman's text on item 105.

17. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba), lamenting the problems encountered with respect to documentation, asked whether documents distribution could be speeded up in order to give delegations and their capitals ample time to properly consider them.

18. **The Chairman** said that efforts would be made to speed up distribution and documents would be published on the Internet before they came out as official documents. Moreover, every effort would be made to ensure that all delegations received documentation in their working languages.

19. Recalling that the General Assembly had decided to waive the quorum requirement to declare a meeting open, he said that meetings would start promptly.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.